

making a living out of weight reducing to find audiences of such magnitude.

It is quite likely that there will be other combined conferences on other phases of health between medical authorities and great publishing houses for the production of honest information about health, which we hope will replace the ridiculous propaganda that is now being sent out haphazard.

**E. O. Crossman, Medical Director United States Veterans' Bureau**, has appointed a board of physicians to study the residual effects of war gases.

The study will necessitate the investigation of the present or recent condition of upward of 70,000 ex-service men of whom there are hospital records of having been gassed.

**History of Medicine**—The Committee of the California Medical Association now engaged in the study of the history of Western medicine, California medicine in particular, is making progress.

John W. Shuman, 2007 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, is actively engaged in the preparation of a history of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

When all the data which are now being brought together on the development of medicine in the western United States is completed, there will be a splendid opportunity for some one competent to do that work to write an interesting narrative on the most important phases of its development.

The co-operation of all members with the California Medical Association committee, as well as the committees of the various counties, is urgently needed to make this work a success.

**St. Luke's Hospital (San Francisco) Clinical Club** held its regular meeting May 6, 1925, Leroy Brooks presiding. The subject of the day, "The Physiology and Pathology of the Hypophysis," was presented by F. C. Nass. In outlining his subject, he stated that the pituitary gland is one of the four glands of internal secretion that have particularly to do with the physical makeup of a person, especially with his growth. His growth may be affected by heredity, by environment—intrauterine and extrauterine—and by the subsequent workings of these glands. There are six conditions generally ascribed to pituitary disorders. They are: hypophyseal infantilism or dwarfism, or ateliosis; gigantism; acromegaly; adiposogenital dystrophy, with three main clinical types, the Froelich type, the Levi-Lorraine type, and the Neurath-Cushing type; diabetes insipidus; cachexia hypophyseopriva, or Simmonds' disease.

All varieties, grades and combinations of the above, and of these with other glands, especially of the gonads, the adrenals, less often the thyroid, are met with.

The anterior lobe has the only apparent hormone which affects growth, although at times it seems injurious to growth. There is evidence that it has another hormone which affects ovulation adversely. There are cytological and morphological indications of possibly three anterior lobe hormones. The middle lobe, the posterior lobe, the stem, and the region of the tuber cinereum are classified by Biedl as a sort of functional unit, and lesions in either one of these parts can bring on typical disturbance of metabolism, and he assumes that the active principle obtained from the posterior lobe is a middle lobe product. The posterior lobe product affects the circulation, the respiration, the carbohydrate metabolism, and the water and salt excretion by the kidney in a typical way.

Professor Evans and others refuse to consider the middle lobe function and a metabolic center as necessary.

Gentlemen, you are about to enter a noble and difficult profession; your success in it depends upon three things: First, a good and thorough knowledge of your profession; second, an industrious discharge of its duties; third, the preservation of your moral character. Without the first, knowledge, no one can wish you to succeed. Without the second, industry, you cannot succeed. Without the third, even if you do succeed, success can bring you no happiness.—Rudolph Matas, Address to Interns, New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal.

## READERS' FORUM

Selected short letters and abstracts from longer communications from readers are published when they remain within the bounds of decorum and law and contribute anything of value. Hereafter the name and address of the writer will be given. A pen name will be published on the author's request, and letters to the editor not intended for publication should be marked "personal."

Hermosa Beach, Calif., April 20, 1926.

**Dear Editor:** Many of the physicians in our section are watching with considerable concern the apparent tendency of county health activities toward state medicine. Recently in the adjoining town of Redondo Beach the medical profession made a practically unanimous protest to the city trustees against the encroaching activities of the county health department. Representatives of the women's club and the county health department were present in open meeting and apparently the doctors gained little but a loss in popularity.

A few days later the county health officer met with the Southwest Branch of the Los Angeles County Society at Torrance at which time their difficulties were discussed. The local physicians' contentions and grievances were about as follows:

1. Free baby clinic conducted at the women's club by the county health department gives medical advice and treatment, especially to the well-to-do, there being few poor in attendance. They reach the physicians' patients through the birth registration by sending a nurse to visit new mothers asking them to bring their babies for free advice to the clinic.

2. County health department advertises and gives free vaccination to all. The physicians contend those able to pay should come to the family physician.

3. School nurses give treatment and at times criticize physicians' treatment. They also give out cards of out-of-town physicians.

4. At times the impression is left with families under quarantine by the health department that the family physician is very much inferior to the personnel of the health department. One physician made the remark that he did not think any \$150 per month man was his superior.

In reply the county health officer said in effect that:

1. Baby clinics are not intended for treatment being only educational. He admits they give feeding advice. (One of the physicians in reply says that feeding is 90 per cent of pediatrics. The objection here made by physicians is that through advertising and publicity patients are being weaned away from private doctors.) The health officer replied that there is nothing to hinder local men from running their own free clinic.

2. Free vaccination is a necessary public health measure and that many cultists will come to a public health office for vaccination who would not go to the physician. He claims that this all has educational value that in time would work great advantage to public and physician alike. (Some of the doctors were hard-boiled enough to think that a few deaths from smallpox among cultists were of vastly more educational value and in the end would be instrumental in saving many more lives; morbidity would be reduced, and the public would be enlightened and ultimately benefited.)

3. He seemed to think treatment of simple skin diseases by school nurses necessary as the only practical means of handling the situation. Recommendation or giving out of cards of physicians is not countenanced by the department, he states.

4. He seems to think his "diagnosticians" superior to general practitioners.

It is the general opinion of the physicians of this community that the above methods and activities are detrimental to both the public and the physician and tend toward state medicine. The health officer pooch-poochs the fear of state medicine. He also says that the public is demanding such activities and will have them; if not at the hands of the health department then from the department stores, etc. The former, in his opinion, is better.

*He thinks the medical profession will have to accept them whether they like it or not.*

Now the medical profession in this section are as willing as ever to give free service to the worthy poor, but do not care to run free clinics for the rich in opposition or otherwise to the county health department. I take it from your writings that the problems here are by no means unique, hence I write for suggestions and ask the following questions:

1. Would educational advertising in the daily press signed by the members of the local society or sponsored by the society be looked upon with disfavor, or as unethical by the state society of the American Medical Association?

2. Would educational personal letters written to a physician's clientele be unethical? As for instance, during our epidemic of smallpox a letter might be written to our clientele stating the existence of a virulent epidemic of smallpox, the advantages of vaccination, possibly including some statistics.

I can see some possible dangers in such activities, but please give us some advice as to what we are going to do.

Fraternally yours,

C. MAX ANDERSON, M. D.

The following from an experienced medical writer is pleasing compensation for hours of the most difficult part of editorial work:

"Thank you for your letter which I have just received along with my manuscript. I am very glad to have your comments and suggestions, and will make several alterations and omissions. I always appreciate constructive criticism that is based on an unbiased survey of any particular subject. Frequently it is difficult for an essayist to retain a proper perspective of his subject, being lost rather in a maze encountered by the labor required to accumulate and sift and criticize the material and then incorporate it into a paper. Hence the very great benefit that one derives from the opinions of another."

Madera, California, May 6, 1926.

*Dr. Emma W. Pope, Secretary*—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is a fine publication, and a credit, thanks to you.

You ask us to say how we liked the binding of the last issue. I like it very much indeed. It is in keeping with the material inside and out.

MARY RYERSON BUTIN.

San Rafael, California, May 5, 1926.

*Dear Editor*—I hereby thank you for giving me the opportunity, by contributing to *Bedside Medicine* for *Bedside Doctors*, to add my small share to the success of our magazine. Those most instructive opinions of the rank and file of the profession in the solution of their various problems are of the greatest value, and I am sure will be greatly appreciated.

J. H. KUSER, M. D.

**The Oldest Medical Work in the World**—This is the Egyptian papyrus written by a Nile physician 3500 years ago, detailing the methods to be pursued in dealing with fractured bones and head injuries. Forty-eight hypothetical cases are described by the ancient physician and treatment prescribed. Dr. James F. Breasted, the Egyptologist, said that the author showed a knowledge of brain functions which was not rediscovered until the present century. In the forty-eight prescriptions by this medical man, only once does he depart from science or common sense in favor of magic. The New York Historical Society has recently announced its plan for publishing this work.—*New York Medical Week*.

Perhaps the chief risk to which a so-called group system exposes itself is a failure to place responsibility on anything that is tangible. Groups melt like a mirage if things go wrong, and a patient with a wholly justifiable complaint may end up begging somebody's pardon for satisfaction.—Hugh Auchincloss, *Journal A. M. A.*

## CALIFORNIA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Items of Interest by C. B. Pinkham, M. D.,  
Secretary-Treasurer

According to the Los Angeles Examiner of March 20, 1926, Miss Rena Amato has brought suit against Dr. W. E. Balsinger for leaving her nose in "a painful and disfigured condition" following an operation. However, Doctor Balsinger has answered by stating that whatever damage may have been done to her nose was due to her failure to return for further treatment as instructed.

The Los Angeles Herald of April 3, 1926, relates that Margery Fleming, who recently brought suit for \$50,000 against W. E. Balsinger, plastic surgeon, for alleged disfiguring scars following an operation, had lost her suit.

An Associated Press dispatch dated Sacramento, March 20, relates that according to James Compton of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, eighty-two chiropractors have forfeited their licenses to practice in California as a result of failure to pay their license fee.

"Dr." Wilbur LeRoy Cosper, some time since convicted of violation of the Medical Practice Act, who lost his recent appeal, has decided to serve his ninety-day sentence and pay the \$500 fine imposed following his conviction, according to the Oakland Times of April 29, 1926, which further relates that "testimony showed that he conducted the clinic of a score of his cult followers following the period of childbirth, and several witnesses testified that hilarity accompanied his administrations. . . . Prior to his conviction here, Cosper had attracted considerable attention in Oakland, where he conducted boxing bouts at his church. . . ." CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in a prior issue has published the activities of "Bishop" LeRoy Cosper and his "Christian Philosophical Institute."

Mrs. Hjalmar de Danville, whose custom it is to dress in man's clothes, was found guilty of a charge of violation of the state Medical Practice Act in Superior Judge Harold Louderback's court, and was given a sentence of one year on probation today.—San Francisco Call, April 4, 1926.

According to the St. Louis, Missouri, Star of March 26, 1926, Dr. Elihu Fluesmeir, a graduate of the University of Missouri, and for the past thirty years a country doctor at Wright City, "was found guilty of embezzling \$16,000 from his widowed mother-in-law, and his punishment fixed at two years in the penitentiary at Jefferson City."

According to the San Francisco Chronicle of March 31, R. Thompson Fowler of Oakland is again charged with a violation of the Medical Practice Act, and the case has been set for trial June 15 in the court of Superior Judge E. S. Church.

The San Francisco Chronicle of March 27, 1926, relates that Harry G. Henderson, special agent of the Board of Medical Examiners, had brought suit for \$25,000 against Fong Wong, Oakland herb doctor, as the result of a charge which Wong caused to be inserted in the papers, conveying the meaning that Henderson had committed subordination of perjury on the occasion of Fong Wong's trial in Oakland on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act.

Walter J. Hendricks (Heinrichs), alleged doctor in Los Angeles, who is stated to have maintained offices in a drug store at Ninth and San Pedro streets, is reported to have been recently arrested by the state pharmacy inspectors on the charge of prescribing morphine without being a duly licensed physician, according to the Los Angeles Examiner of April 29, 1926, which further relates "Doctor Hendricks is declared to have written scores of prescriptions, and the drug store in question is said to have filled them. Police said it was the same drug company that filled a prescription several months ago that is declared to have caused the death of a baby."

According to the St. Louis Star of April 8, 1926, Dr. Ray B. Horton, who was prominently mentioned in connection with the diploma mill exposé, has lost his fight to restrain the Missouri board from hearing a citation to show cause why Horton's license should not be revoked, and the board heard the case on May 6, 1926.

Dr. Lewis T. A. Hotten, founder of the Charity-Anti-